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BOOK REVIEWS.

L. R. A. CASES AS AUTHORITIES. Applied, Developed, Strengthened, Limited, or in any way affected by later decisions that have cited these cases as precedents. In four volumes. Vol. I. The Lawyers' Co-operative Publishing Company, Rochester, N. Y. 1905. \$7.50 per vol.

The publication of these volumes will greatly increase the value of the L. R. A. series. In these days when opinions of courts of last resort are being ground out with lightning-like swiftness, making it easy to find an authority on either side of almost any position, it is of manifest value to be able to trace the history of the conflicting authorities, so as to determine which are more entitled to weight. When the attorney on the other side has cited a case which seems to be "on all fours" squarely against you, often your only avenue of escape is to be able to find that the opinion cited has been in some way limited or distinguished or overruled. Hence books giving the history of cases are destined to become in more general use. "Roses Notes" led the way and many similar works will follow.

It is truly said in the preface of the work under review that the value of a case is often multiplied many times by tracing it through a series of later decisions that have been founded upon it. "Each case that cites it as a precedent may do more than merely follow the precedent; it may extend, expand, or broaden it by giving it a new application, or distinguish, limit, or disapprove it." In this way after a precedent has been repeatedly cited its history in later decisions greatly increases its value. To give this added value in each case in L. R. A. is the purpose of the "L. R. A. Cases as Authorities." It takes up each opinion, beginning with the first case in Volume 1, and gives the later decisions in which each case is cited, stating in condensed form a digest of all the holdings of other courts as to the case under consideration, so classifying the statements as to enable one to refer directly to the point under investigation. For instance, take the Virginia case of *Alexander v. Alexander*, 85 Va., 353, reported in 1 L. R. A., 125. The work shows that that case has been distinguished in a West Virginia case and distinguished and questioned in a Missouri case. The knowledge of these facts will enable the lawyer to study more intelligently the case of *Alexander v. Alexander* and to more completely understand its application. We only wish that some industrious Virginia lawyer would compile a history of Virginia case law so that the value of each Virginia decision might be ascertained without laborious research.

A PRACTICAL TREATISE ON THE LAW OF RECEIVERS, as applicable to Individuals, Partnerships and Corporations, with Extended Consideration of Receivers of Railways and in Proceedings in Bankruptcy. By William A. Alderson, of the Los Angeles Bar, author of a treatise on "Judicial Writs and Process," and editor of "Alderson's Edition of Beach on Receivers." Baker, Voorhies & Company, N. Y. 1905. \$6.00 net.

The publishers of law books are quick to perceive and supply the demands of the profession. The publication of nearly every recent text-book issued by leading publishers has been in response to a widespread demand caused